



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Portland District
Operations Division
PO Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: 21 December 2001

CLOSING DATE: 22 January 2002

REFERENCE NUMBER: NWPOP-CRA-F02-001
Maintenance Dredging at Mouth of the Columbia River

Interested parties are hereby notified that the US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, plans to perform work in navigable waters of this District under the Provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (MPRSA), and in accordance with Regulation 33 CFR parts 335-338.

PURPOSE: To maintain the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) Navigation Channel at its Federally authorized depths of -55 and -48 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) by removing restricting shoals consisting of naturally occurring sedimentary materials. For this action, up to 5 feet of allowable overdepth dredging may be accomplished in order to ensure authorized project depth is available as long as possible between dredging cycles.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to designate the Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS) necessary for the continued maintenance of the MCR channel, and these ODMDS will be used to accomplish this work. If adequate (sufficient capacity) EPA designated sites are not available (designation is not completed) in time to meet dredging needs in 2002, the areas identified in this notice will be used by the Corps under the authority of Section 103 of the MPRSA.

LOCATION: Mouth of the Columbia River, Pacific County Washington and Clatsop County, Oregon.

WORK: The proposed work involves the dredging and redistribution of sedimentary material from the MCR Federal navigation project channel. The authorized MCR channel is 2,640 feet wide and extends from deep water in the ocean, at approximately River Mile (RM) -3+00 upstream to RM 3+00. The MCR channel connects with the existing 40-foot deep Columbia and Lower Willamette channel at RM 3+00. The northern 2,000 feet is maintained to a depth of -55 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and the southern 640 feet is maintained to -48 feet MLLW. Up to 5 feet of overdepth dredging is performed to ensure project depth is available as long as possible between dredging cycles. An average of 4 to 5 million cubic yards (mcy) per year is dredged at the project.

The MCR must be dredged by hopper dredge due to the wave and current conditions encountered at the project. A range of disposal alternatives will be used to accomplish this work. The Corps of Engineers considers the clean sand dredged at the MCR project an important resource and will utilize beneficial use alternatives to the extent practicable under available authorities and funding. The Corps also recognizes the environmental and other effects (consequences) of dredging and placing large quantities of dredged material and places great emphasis on balancing all interests in maintaining the project. These include keeping sand in the littoral system, minimizing environmental impacts, and minimizing potential wave effects and interference with navigation.

The following dredged material placement areas will be used to accomplish this work:

1. North Jetty site. This site is near the MCR North jetty and closely matches an historical placement site. The District began using this site in 1998 to protect the jetty from potential undermining. Approximately 100,000 to 500,000 cubic yards (cy) of sand will be placed in this site each year.
2. Shallow Water Site (Expanded Site E). This site is located off the end of the north jetty and is highly erosive. It consists of an EPA designated site and an adjacent area that has been used by the Corps under the authority of Section 103 of the MPRSA since 1998, with EPA concurrence. Most of the material eroding from this site is believed to move to the north where it could help to offset on-going erosion along the Washington shoreline. The Corps and EPA

have been actively managing this site to meet competing objectives, and are currently evaluating their management practices with an eye to further improving management. The EPA is working to designate this site as an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) under the Section 102 of the MPRSA. The Corps will continue to use this site under its Section 103 authority until EPA site designation is completed and will then use the EPA designated site. The annual capacity is under review at this time. In recent years as much as 3.7 mcy have gone into the site, but future use will likely not be that high.

3. Expanded Site F. This site is located approximately three miles from RM 0 along the approach channel. The site consists of an EPA designated site and adjacent area that the Corps has been using under its Section 103 authority since 1993 with EPA concurrence. Use of the site under the Section 103 authority is limited to 10 years by law, and the EPA is not planning to designate this site as a permanent site under Section 102. Therefore, it would be used in 2002 and will not be used after May 2003. This site will be used for any dredged material left after available beneficial use sites have been used in 2002.
4. Deep Water Site. The Deep Water Site is located approximately six miles from RM 0. The EPA is working to designate the entire site as an ODMDS. Once EPA designates the site, the Corps will continue to use it as one of the alternatives for maintaining the MCR project. The Corps is proposing to select and use a portion of this larger proposed site under its Section 103 authority until the EPA designation is completed. This area would be 7,000 x 7,000 feet to ensure capacity to meet disposal needs until EPA completes site designation for the larger site. The deepwater site will be used for any dredged material left after all of the other available sites have been used.
5. Benson Beach. This new alternative site would place dredged material along the beach at Benson Beach in Fort Canby State Park, north of the north jetty. Congress provided language and additional funding for the Corps in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill

for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 that will allow the Corps to conduct a demonstration project at Benson Beach. This method of funding was pursued because the Corps must normally use the least cost, environmentally acceptable alternative. Direct placement of material at Benson beach is expected to cost considerably more than the other disposal alternatives discussed in this Public Notice.

Benson Beach placement will be included as an option in the Corps' contract for maintenance dredging at MCR in FY 2002. The quantity of material placed at the site will depend on the actual costs. The intent is to place the maximum quantity possible with the available funding in order to maximize benefits and provide enough material to monitor effectiveness at offsetting erosion. If costs for beach placement are comparable to the in-water disposal alternatives, the quantity placed on the beach may be limited by the increased time required and potential impacts on maintaining channel depths. Placement will be limited to FY 2002 unless additional funding is provided in the future or costs are comparable to other alternatives. If either of these occur, placement at Benson Beach could continue in future years.

Dredged material could be pumped from the contract hopper dredge maintaining the MCR channel to the beach. This is expected to occur from a location near the north jetty, just east of the North Jetty Site. Dredged material could possibly be pumped from a location offshore of Benson Beach if there are problems with the north jetty location. Alternative placement methods may be considered if pump-ashore from the hopper dredge is not successful or is found not to be cost-effective.

Placement on the beach will be at the approximate location shown on the drawing. The pipeline discharge would be at about the Mean Higher High Water line and the fill will be extended out into the intertidal zone and along the beach as material accumulates.

6. Nearshore placement. Direct placement of dredged material into the nearshore area is being proposed as a demonstration project, based on the stated desires of the State of Washington to retain clean sand in the littoral system. This would help to meet the

concerns of the state of Washington and coastal communities over on-going coastal erosion. The Corps recognizes that nearshore placement would conflict with other uses of the ocean. Therefore, we are proposing to limit placement to a 1,000 x 4,000-foot area for this demonstration project. Approximately 300,000 to 500,000 cy would be placed into this area.

Disposal will be north of the north jetty and centered near the 40-foot depth contour. The approximate location is shown on the attached map. The actual location of the test area will be established prior to use, working with the State of Washington to optimize input to the system and minimize conflicts. The Corps will work with the State of Washington and other interested parties to develop an appropriate monitoring program to determine the effectiveness of nearshore placement and verify the environmental impacts. If the monitoring indicates this alternative is effective and acceptable, continued use of the site, or similar sites of limited size, will be considered in future years.

7. Site A. The Corps is proposing to use EPA designated Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site A for limited placement of dredged material in the future. Historical use of this site when other disposal options and capacity were limited resulted in mounding in the past. Some of the previously placed material has eroded. Therefore, a limited quantity may be placed into this site each year to help keep material in the littoral system and reduce accumulation at other sites. The maximum quantity to be placed here would be 300,000 cy per year, with placement more likely in the 100,000 cy range.
8. South Jetty Site. The Corps is proposing a new placement area along the south side of the south jetty as shown on the attached drawing. This site would be used under the authority of Section 404 of the CWA to prevent potential undermining of the south jetty from active erosion of the nearshore coastal area. The proposed site is 2,000 by 5,000 feet and the approximate location is shown on the drawing. The exact location may be adjusted slightly to maximize effectiveness. Approximately 1 mcy could be placed in this area to accomplish this purpose in 2002. It is expected that placement would be less in

future years, on the order of 200,000 to 500,000 cy per year.

The proposed dredged material placement sites will be used to achieve the maximum benefit possible, within the limits of available funding and authorities, while minimizing potential impacts and conflicts with other uses of the ocean.

Samples of sediments collected from the MCR project in 2000 were found to be clean marine sand suitable for unconfined in-water placement under criteria promulgated pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act. This sand is considered suitable for beach nourishment.

RELATED WORK: Pacific County has applied for permits to place dredged material from the MCR project at Benson Beach. They have not received all necessary permits at this time, but are working to obtain them. The Corps is continuing to work with Pacific County and the Southwest Washington coastal communities to help facilitate placement at Benson Beach and address erosion concerns.

The Corps also maintains the 40-foot deep Columbia and Lower Willamette River Federal navigation upstream of the MCR and several other authorized channels in the vicinity of the MCR. None of these projects are utilizing the disposal sites identified in this Public Notice at this time. The Corps is consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service on the authorized inner channel deepening, from 40 feet to 43 feet. This project is being coordinated separately from the actions addressed in this notice.

PROJECT SPONSORS: The MCR Federal Navigation Project does not have a local sponsor.

CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA) COMPLIANCE: A Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation will be prepared to address the proposed discharge of dredged material into a water of the United States and will be available for review at the Portland District. The north jetty site, Benson Beach placement, nearshore placement, and the south jetty site will all be evaluated under the CWA. State Water Quality certification will also be obtained as required under Section 401 of the Act. The above requirement shall not be construed as affecting or impairing the authority of the Secretary of the Army to maintain navigation. Attached

to this Public Notice is the State of Oregon's Public Notice and Washington State's Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification.

MARINE PROTECTION, RESEARCH, AND SANCTUARIES ACT: The proposed transportation of this dredged material for the purpose of dumping it in ocean waters is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dumping will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare, or amenities of the marine environment, ecological system, or economic potentialities. In making this determination, the criteria established by the Administrator, EPA, pursuant to Section 102 (a) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 shall be applied. In addition, based upon an evaluation of the potential effect which the failure to utilize this ocean disposal site will have on navigation, economic and industrial development, and foreign and domestic commerce of the United States, an independent determination will also be made of the need to dispose of this dredged material in ocean waters, other possible methods of disposal, and other appropriate locations.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to designate the Shallow Water and the Deep Water Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites under Section 102 of the MPRSA. Once designated, these ODMDS will be used for the continued maintenance of the MCR channel. If designation by EPA is not completed in time to meet dredging needs in 2002, the Shallow Water Site, expanded Site F and a portion of the Deep Water Site will be used by the Corps under the authority of Section 103 of the MPRSA until EPA designation is completed. The Shallow Water Site and expanded Site F have both been used previously for MCR disposal under Section 103 of the MPRSA. The Deep Water Site has not been used for dredged material disposal.

A description of the characteristics of the Shallow Water Site and Deep Water Site is provided in the Final Integrated Feasibility Report for Channel Improvements and Environmental Impact Statement, Columbia and Lower Willamette River Federal Navigation Channel issued in August 1999. A description of the characteristics of expanded Site F is found in the Environmental Assessment prepared for that action in 1992. The documented effects of previous disposals at the Shallow Water Site and expanded Site F are documented in summary reports prepared by the Corps of Engineers. These reports are available upon request.

The management and monitoring plan for the MCR Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites is being updated by the EPA and the

Corps. A copy of the new plan will be available upon request once it is completed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: A preliminary investigation has indicated that the proposed action will not affect any cultural resources. This finding will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officers in Oregon and Washington.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY REQUIREMENTS WITH STATE'S COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: The proposed project is the maintenance of an existing navigation channel and placement of dredged material at several dredged material disposal areas. Operations will be conducted in a manner that is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the approved state management program. A determination of the project's consistency with the applicable State Coastal Zone Management program is being coordinated with the States. The State's concurrence will be sought in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Attached to this Public Notice is notice of application for Certification of Consistency with the States of Washington and Oregon for Certification of Consistency with each state's Coastal Zone Management Program.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: ESA compliance has been obtained for maintenance of the MCR channel and the ocean disposal actions through previous consultation. A list of threatened and endangered species which could occur in the area will be requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the new disposal alternatives, including Benson Beach, the South Jetty Site, and the nearshore area demonstration site. A biological assessment will be prepared to address potential project related impacts for listed species. Preliminarily, the described activity will not adversely effect an endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION: The proposed work is being or will be coordinated with the following Federal, State, or local agencies:

Federal

US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

State of Washington

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington State Historic Preservation Office

State of Oregon

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Division of State Lands
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
DREDGING: The Corps of Engineers undertakes operations and maintenance activities where appropriate and environmentally acceptable. All practicable and reasonable alternatives are fully considered on an equal basis. This includes the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the US or ocean waters in the least costly manner, at the least costly and most practicable location, and consistent with engineering and environmental requirements (33 CFR Part 335.4). The least costly alternative, consistent with sound engineering practices and selected through the 404(b)(1) guidelines or ocean disposal criteria, will be designated the Federal standard for the proposed project (33 CFR Part 336.1(c)(1)). Public Notices for Corps operations and maintenance activities are normally issued for an indefinite period of time and are not reissued unless changes in the disposal plan warrant re-evaluation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 CFR Part 337.1 (a)). Resource agencies listed in the COORDINATION paragraph will be informed each year of specific project requirements.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The decision whether to perform the work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy

needs, safety, food production, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

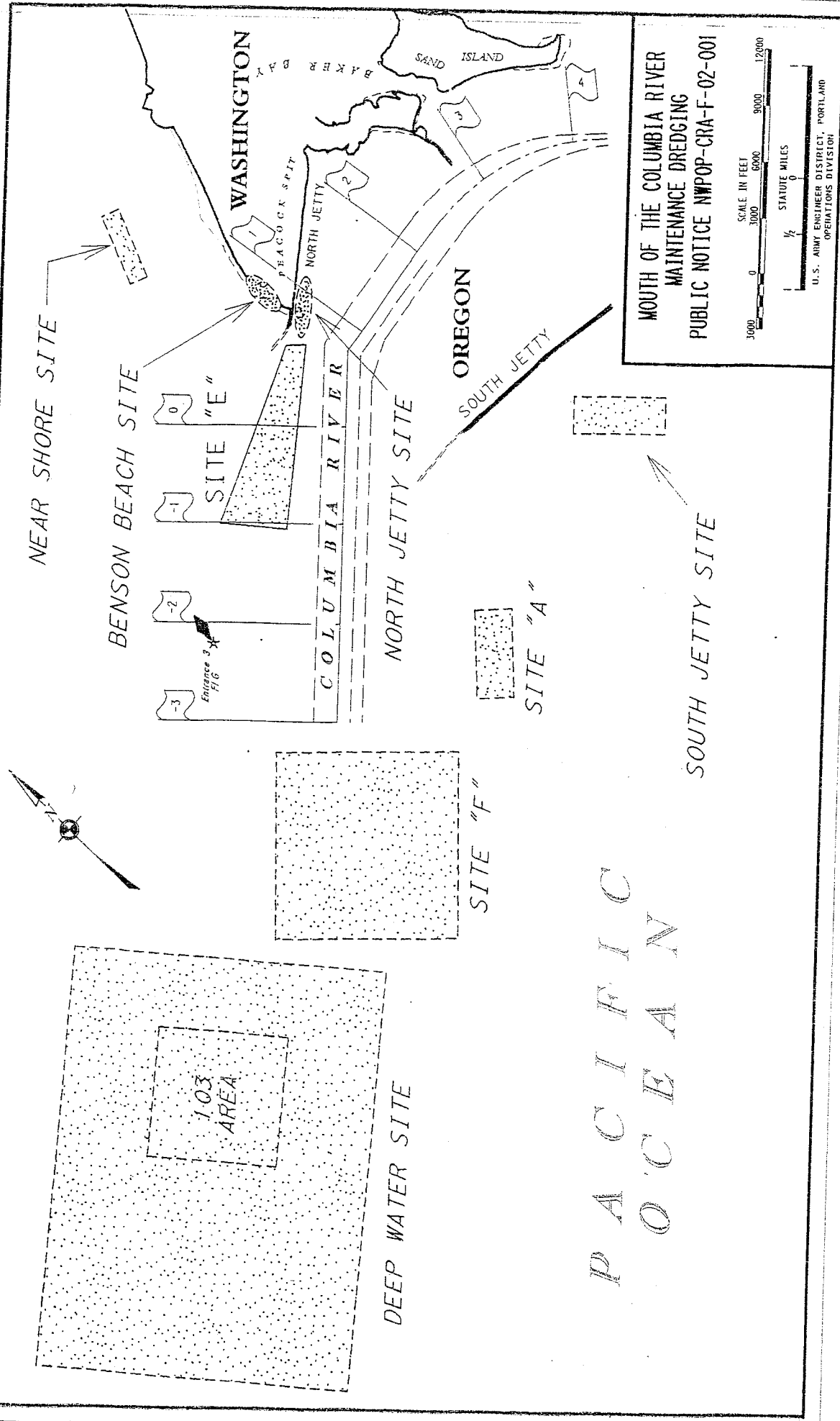
PUBLIC HEARING: Given the large interest in the MCR project and associated ocean disposal of dredged material, The Corps intends to hold a Public Hearing for the proposed work, in conjunction with the States of Oregon and Washington. The hearing will likely occur in the Astoria area in the first week of February. The exact date and location will be announced once they are established.

EIS DETERMINATION: A preliminary determination has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not currently required for the described work. An EIS was prepared for the deepening of the MCR project in 1984. The designation of Site A was addressed in an EIS prepared in 1983. The proposed Deep Water and Shallow Water Sites, and large placement areas to the north and south of the MCR, including nearshore placement, were addressed in the EIS prepared for the Columbia River Channel Improvement project in 1999. The north jetty site and expanded Site F were addressed in Environmental Assessments. A new Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to address the proposed Benson Beach placement area and the South Jetty Site and tie all of the existing environmental documents together for the work described by this Public Notice.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the closing date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained from Eric Braun, Channels and Harbors Project, Waterways Maintenance Section, at the above address, telephone 503/808-4348.

David C. Beach, P.E.
Project Manager
Channels and Harbors Project





Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street N.E., Suite 200

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 373-0050

FAX (503) 378-6033

Web Address: <http://www.lcd.state.or.us>

Public Notice

Oregon Coastal Management Program Consistency Determination

A consistency determination has been filed with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), as provided in Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act. The consistency determination states that the activities described in the attached federal notice would comply with and be conducted in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Oregon Coastal Management Program. The determination and supporting information can be made available for inspection at DLCD's Salem office.

DLCD is hereby beginning its coastal zone review of the proposed federal action and is soliciting public comments on project consistency with the Oregon Coastal Management Program. Written comments may be submitted to DLCD, 635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 200, Salem, OR - attention consistency review specialist. Any comments must be received by DLCD by the date indicated on the attached federal notice or within 21 days of issuance of this DLCD notice, whichever is longer. For further information, you may call DLCD at (503)-373-0050 Ext. 250.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Comments should address consistency with the applicable elements of the Oregon Coastal Management Program. These elements include:

- Acknowledged Local Comprehensive Plans & Implementing Ordinances
- Statewide Planning Goals
- Applicable State Authorities (e.g. Removal-Fill Law and Oregon Water Quality Standards)

INCONSISTENT?

If you believe this project is inconsistent with the Oregon Coastal Management Program, your comments to DLCD should explain why you believe the project is inconsistent and should identify the Oregon Coastal Management Program element(s) in question. You should also describe how the project could be modified, if possible, to make it consistent with the Oregon Coastal Management Program.



COE No. NWPOP-CRA-F02 001
DSL No. _____

WATER QUALITY 401 CERTIFICATION
Public Notice

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

Notice Issued: 21 December 2001

WHO IS THE APPLICANT: See the Corps of Engineers (COE) public notice.

WHAT IS PROPOSED: See the attached COE public notice on the proposed project.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGES: See the COE public notice for details.

NEED FOR CERTIFICATION: Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, any activity that requires a federal permit or license requires certification from the State that any discharge will meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and State water quality standards.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. no later than thirty days from the notice issued date at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, 811 S.W. 6th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97204 to be included in the official record. Public comments should specifically include new data addressing how the project would affect requirements of the Clean Water Act and Oregon water quality standards.

The applicant, any affected state, or any interested agency, person or group of persons, may request a public hearing with respect to this certification application. If the Director determines new data would be produced, a public hearing will be held prior to the director's final determination. There shall be notification of such a hearing.

HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The public notice and related documents are available for inspection during the public comment period, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at DEQ's Portland office. Please call in advance for an appointment 229-5279.

People wishing to receive a copy of the COE public notice can call DEQ at (503) 229-5279 or toll free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011. Public Records Act charges may apply. Persons with a hearing impairment can receive help by calling DEQ's TDD number at (503) 229-6993.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT: After the conclusion of the public participation period, the permit will be issued as proposed, issued with modifications, or denied, depending on comments received during the public participation process. Interested parties can request to be notified of the final determination by writing or calling the Department at the above address.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION: This publication is available in alternate format (e.g. large print, braille) upon request. Please contact Ed Sale in DEQ Public Affairs at 229-5766 to request an alternate format.



811 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204-1390
(503) 229-5696
TDD (503) 229-6993
DEQ-1



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification
and for
Certification of Consistency with the
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: 21 December 2001

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. NWPOP-CRA-F02-001 will comply with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with all other applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is also given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307(c) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above-referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that Program.

Any person desiring to present views pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 21 days of the above publication date to:

Permit Coordination Team
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47703
Olympia, WA 98504-7703